

**ABSTRACT**

A method of training a neural network to perform decoding of a time-varying signal comprising a sequence of input symbols, which is coded by a coder such that each coded output symbol depends on more than one input symbol, characterised by repetitively:  
5 providing a plurality of successive input symbols to the neural network and to the coder, comparing the network outputs with the input signals; and adapting the network parameters to reduce the differences therebetween.